

Amendments to the Claims

1. *(Original)* A skimming apparatus for use in removing surface debris from a captive body of water, comprising:
 - (a) a skimmer body having an interior, an upper portion, and a lower portion, said skimmer body positionable to be within the captive body of water, wherein
 - (a1) said upper portion of said skimmer body contains at least one intake aperture for receiving surface water from the captive body of water, and,
 - (a2) said lower portion of said skimmer body contains at least one discharge aperture for removing water from said interior of said skimmer body;
 - (b) a submersible pump external to said skimmer body interior and positionable to be directly connected to said lower portion thereof, said submersible pump having at least an intake orifice and a discharge orifice, said intake orifice being in fluid communication with said discharge aperture of said skimmer body and in fluid communication with said interior of said skimmer body, said submersible pump at least for removing water from said skimmer body interior via said discharge aperture; and,
 - (c) a porous filter positionable to be within said skimmer body interior for receiving and filtering water drawn into said interior of said skimmer by said submersible pump.
2. *(Original)* A skimming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said captive body of water has at least one ornamental plant shelf therein, and wherein said skimmer body is positionable to be sat on said ornamental plant shelf.

3. *(Original)* A skimming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said skimmer body has a plurality of discharge apertures.
4. *(Original)* A skimming apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said skimming apparatus has a bottom panel, and wherein at least one of said plurality of discharge apertures is located within said bottom panel.
5. *(Original)* A skimming apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said skimming apparatus has at least one side panel, and wherein at least one of said plurality of discharge apertures is located within one of said at least one side panels.
6. *(Original)* A skimming apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein any of said discharge apertures not connected to said submersible pump is configurable to be blocked to prevent the flow of water therethrough.
7. *(Original)* A skimming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said porous filter comprises a coarsely porous basket positioned within said skimmer body upper portion.
8. *(Original)* A skimming apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said porous filter further comprises a filter mat.

9. *(Cancelled)*
10. *(Original)* A skimming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said submersible pump discharge orifice is in fluid communication with the captive body of water.